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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Staaken Airfield

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

9 May 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 3 April 1951, the large searchlight at Staaken (N 53/Z 65) airfield rotated from 9:30 p.m. to midnight. The searchlight stopped for three minutes after each series of ten clockwise rotations. Another searchlight was seen for the first time about 15 km north of Staaken. It was also in operation until midnight making a series of 14 rotations in a counter-clockwise direction with three-minute intervals in between. There was no flying because of slightly hazy weather, but the noise of aircraft engines were heard.

2. On 4 April, three biplanes made local flights between 2 and 5 p.m. The sky was almost cloudless. The planes had a white-bordered red Soviet star under the white upper edges of their rudder assemblies. About 12 Soviet soldiers wearing flying suits were seen on the N-S runway. There were two trucks nearby. One was painted red. About 45 single-engine ground attack aircraft were parked on the southern edge of the field. One hangar was open and vacant. Three twin-engine transports were seen in another open hangar in front of which two other transport planes were parked. *

3. Two radio installations, with four masts each, were seen west of the field. One installation, guarded by a sentry, was located outside the airfield, about 1,000 meters west of the westernmost hangar, and approximately 400 meters north of the Hamburg Highway. The other installation was located just south of the small field path leading from the Falkensee (N 53/Z 65) Dallgow (N 53/Z 65) road to the airfield, about 250 meters east of this road. This installation had previously been placed in the extension of the field path. North of this second installation there was a truck with a mounted searchlight and an individual radio mast with two sheds. ** No soldiers were seen near the installation.

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4. Trucks entered and left the field. There was no flying between 9 and 11 p.m. on 4 April but the large searchlight was in operation. Seven red obstacle lights were also on.

5. In the afternoon of 5 April, no flights were made. The weather was slightly hazy. Biplanes and single-engine high-wing monoplanes made local flights and flights in formations of four planes between 8 p.m. and midnight.

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One searchlight emplaced at the field and an other one located about 15 km north of Staaken, were in operation.

6. There was no flying on the afternoons of 6 and 8 April although the weather was good.

7. On 9 April at about 1 p.m., ground attack aircraft, of the same type as previously seen in Staaken, landed at the field. At 3:15 p.m., 36 ground attack planes were counted in the northeastern corner of the field.

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8. On 10 April at 6 p.m., it was observed from the northern edge of the field that 21 ground attack aircraft were parked in the eastern section of the field. Twenty-six planes of the same type were parked in two rows in the northern section. All of the planes had yellowish-brown propeller hubs and a letter on their fuselages preceding the numbers. The figures D 4 and D 6 were seen on two planes. Thirty-eight ground attack aircraft were counted in front of the hangars on the southern edge of the field. *** Additional planes were seen in three open hangars. Six police dogs were again seen tied to poles in the northwestern corner of the field.

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9. On 11 April at about 3 p.m., fuel was being put into tank trucks from three large railroad tank cars at the Dallgow railroad station. The fuel was then hauled to Staaken airfield. The motor vehicle [redacted] were secured. Throughout the day, jet fighters with swept-back wings circled over Doeberitz (N 53/Z 65) troop training grounds.

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10. On 12 April, ten ground attack aircraft took off at 8:30 a.m. in rapid succession and headed south in elements of two. At about 12:10 p.m., 22 other planes took off and headed south in elements of two and in squadron formation. None of the planes were seen landing at the field.

11. On 14 April, at 8:15 a.m. six rows each of four ground attack aircraft of IL-10 type were parked in the eastern section of the field. The engines of the aircraft were running. Six ground attack planes were counted in front of the hangars in the southern section of the field, and 47 planes were counted in the northeastern corner of the field.

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* [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the airfield is occupied by one ground attack regiment and one air transport squadron.

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** [redacted] Comment. One of the two radio installations is an Adcock DF. It has not been determined whether the other installation is also a DF. The third installation, i.e., the truck with searchlight and mast, is a landing beacon.

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*** [redacted] Comment. The occupation reported indicates that an additional ground attack regiment must have arrived in Staaken on 9 April 1951. [redacted]

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[redacted] The regiment observed probably does not belong to the Twenty-Fourth Air Army. It is believed the regiment has been stationed temporarily in Staaken, otherwise, the ground unit at the field would have been increased.

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